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723 In both cases, the principle of always seizing any Badawin found *en route* and making him march with the raiders to prevent his spreading news is strictly followed. It is also common for leaders to give out that they are going in one direction and then to double back and pursue a totally different direction when they are a day's march out. Attacks at dawn or in the thick of a duststorm are much favoured. A usual stratagem of the attacked is to seize wells by which the raiders must retire. 'Azaiyiz, the son of Al Duwish, was intercepted and his force destroyed in 1929 at Um ar Ruthumah in this way.

725 Organised attacks on a township, a fortified camp on water, or on an enemy trying to deny wells to a retiring force, are usually carried out on foot and in a series of lines in imitation of regular troops, horsemen and camelmen being kept in reserve. This form of attack was perfected by the 'Ikhwan and was specially favoured by them. They employed it when they endeavoured to capture Jahrah in 1920 in face of the combined forces of Kuwait, also in the operations leading up to the capture of Hail. On such occasions the first, second and third lines are found by irregular Badawin styled *'A'arab* by the faithful, while the supports and reserves consist of the *Mutadaiyanin* or "those with religion". These deliver the main stroke. Though invented by the 'Ikhwan, the above method would probably be employed in any future operations in which Sa'udi Arabia forces were engaged.

Flank attacks, rearguard actions and dispersing on the approach of enemy aircraft are well understood, and would no doubt be employed as occasion demanded.

705 In all forms of attack, water for men and horses is carried on selected camels in *jirbas* or goatskins. Camels get nothing till the attack is over.

The inviolability of women in war has been dealt with in Chapter VII.

721 For a brief period only during Arab history have women been treated in any other way than with chivalry and consideration; this 562 was in 1925 and the following years, when the fanatical 'Ikhwan, evolved of Bin Sa'ud's genius for furthering his political ends, were at the height of their power and were raiding the Iraq, Kuwait and trans-Jordan tribes, and cutting up scattered detachments of the Muntafiq and Khazail shepherd tribes in the southern desert.

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492 the left. The leftward pull is, of course, accentuated when galloping or when the mount is tugging.

Readers may ask how the rider can control his horse at all without a bit. The answer is that the rough angular chain over its nostrils hurts the animal as the halter is pulled taut. This has the effect of checking the horse, but also of making it turn its head further round to shift the pressure from the top bone of the nostrils to the fleshy part at the side of the mouth.

The only places where bits will be found in use are among certain riverain tribal shaikhs in Iraq, and possibly among some of the Princes and Rulers of Arabia (I have not yet seen them in use in the desert, and Bin Sa'ud himself always rides with a halter, even to-day). The bits that are used follow the style used in Persia, Syria and North Africa, and in place of a curb chain there is a thin circular metal band which is attached to the cross-piece of the bit itself. This latter usually has an unpleasant-looking metal spike, which, as the bit is pulled, engages the roof of the mouth and causes pain. All Arab horses ridden on these bits continually throw their heads up, to the great discomfort of the rider.

SADDLES

492 The Badawin rank and file never use saddles or stirrups. All their
704 riding is done barebacked, with only halters to control and guide their mounts. The wild state of non-control when a thousand howling riders is bearing down upon you can be imagined. No one can check the pace of the charge, the full weight of which is felt by the enemy. However damaging the fire, however much the individual rider may desire to pull out and beat a retreat, he is powerless to do so until the mass sense of the charging horses causes them to bear right or left away from the enemy.

704 When Badawin horsemen are loosed at each other, both sides ride
725 bang through and go on galloping far beyond on the other side until they are able to pull up.

I once experienced such a wild Badawin charge at the battle of Shu'aiba (Iraq) in 1915.

We had a weak Indian Cavalry Brigade assisted by a horse battery, and had reconnoitred as far as Ratawi Mounds. There we made

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contact with a much superior force of irregular Kurdish and Badawin cavalry who forced us to retire.

After conducting a steady retreat for a distance of some eighteen miles, we were about to skirt Barjisiyah wood, when our force was suddenly charged in flank by 'Ajaimi al Sa'adun and some thousand Muntafiq mounted men, who, unknown to us, were hiding in that particular wood.

As we were up to that point retiring on a very wide front in line of squadrons at two hundred yards' interval, each squadron covering the movement to the rear of its neighbour by dismounted fire action, our force was too widely extended to change front and present a suitable face to the flank charge, and for a time the direst confusion and chaos existed.

Fortunately for us, an infantry column had come out to assist our retreat, and was entrenched close by. It saved the situation. Otherwise, many of us would not be living to tell the tale, for to give 'Ajaimi and his men full credit, his charge was magnificent, and went right through our force, quite in accordance with the best tradition of cavalry tactics. As it was, our worsted force was driven right on to the friendly infantry trenches, and great was the Badawins' surprise to see themselves suddenly confronted at almost point-blank range by a long line of British bayonets comfortably ensconced in trenches. These turned what looked like a probable *débâcle* for us into a defeat for the enemy, and by their withering fire forced 'Ajaimi's men to beat a precipitate retreat, which was successfully turned into a headlong flight by accurate salvoes from a hidden battery.

Though the ordinary Badawin rides barebacked, the shaikhs and those who can afford it use for comfort a light cloth saddle, known as a *ma'araga*. This has no stirrups and is little more than a padded numdah strapped on to the horse's back.

The *ma'araga* is quite short from front to rear, just allowing a man sufficient room to seat himself.

MODERN WEAPONS, AND THE MOTOR CAR

As already mentioned, stallions or males are not wanted in Arabia, and are sold as soon as possible for draught or pack purposes in the